



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 147

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2001

No. 3

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2001, at 11 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2001

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, source of all power, we praise You that You entrust Your power to the Senators so that they may lead and govern. Keep them mindful that they hold power with Your permission and for Your purposes. May the power they hold be equally measured by the humility they express. Human power can lead to pride. Praise to You, for the privilege of power is the antidote to this pride. With power comes power struggles to determine who is in control. These power struggles can denigrate our awareness that You are in control. In this unprecedented time when power must be shared by the parties, bless the Senators with an equally unprecedented measure of trust in each other and each other's parties.

Dear Father, work in the minds and hearts of the Senators as they consider the Senate committee organization. May this Senate exemplify to the Nation that great leaders can work together. When You are our Lord, there is no need to lord it over others; when we remember our accountability to You, we can be accommodating to one another. May it be so in this Senate for Your glory and the good of our beloved Nation. You are Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to exceed the hour of 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The absence of a quorum has been suggested. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN, speaking in morning

business, the Senate be in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? There is no objection. It is so ordered.

The senior Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

ORGANIZING THE SENATE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, we have been in a quorum call this morning and for some part of yesterday. I know news reports are explaining to the American people that we are in the process of organizing in the Senate at this point and it has been a bit difficult because, for the first time in the history of our country, the Senate is evenly split as between Republicans and Democrats.

There was an occasion in the last century, about 120 years ago or so, in which there was an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. But there were also two Independents serving in the Senate at the time. Having read a bit about that period of time, my understanding is the Independents had quite an interesting time bargaining as between the two political parties about what their respective roles might be, should they choose to assist one political party or another.

But that is not the case in this circumstance. We are evenly split. The American people caused that to happen. They sent 50 Republican Senators and 50 Democrat Senators here to the Senate. It is my hope that the negotiations currently underway between the Democratic leader, now the majority

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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